

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-10 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1-4 and 6-10 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

§103 Rejection of Claims 1-10

In Section 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Borgstahl (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,183) in combination with Eisenhandler (U.S. Patent No. 5,452,291). Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, and 10 have been amended to address the rejection.

In the Background section of the Specification, it was disclosed that “[t]he rapid popularization of information devices such as a PC, a printer, and a scanner and the sharp increase of the number of Internet users as well as the diversification of communication and broadcasting services contribute to the progress of the home network. ... In the audiovisual (AV) industries, digital products such as a MD player, a digital video camera, and a digital still camera have rapidly progressed, expecting that digital videos and digital TVs will further develop. Also, the technology has been introduced that allows home appliances such as a refrigerator, an air conditioner and a microwave oven to be connected to a home network and allows these connected appliances to be remotely operated and maintained.” *Background of the Specification, page 1, line 24 to page 2, line 16.*

Further, “the portable information devices such as a cellular phone and PDAs have remarkably progressed as well as the home network. The use of portable information devices is

however limited to out-of-home uses such as phone calling, data communication, and schedule management, and is isolated from home appliances. Resources and units on a portable information device, such as operation and display units, therefore are not usable for the home network. ... Portable information devices such as a cellular phone and PDAs are independently operated on themselves, not intended to be operated by external equipment. If the portable information devices, which are progressing in personalization, share resources of external equipment, they can be exploited effectively.” *Background of the Specification, page 3, lines 1-14.*

To address the above-described shortcomings of the conventional portable information devices and home networks, embodiments of the present invention provide a capability for portable information devices to operate efficiently with a home network, which is configured to integrate low-speed appliances with high-speed devices through a bridging device. For example, the structure of device claim 1, as presented herein, includes:

“initialization data transmitting means for transmitting initialization data to an access point connected to a home network networking low-speed home appliances and high-speed devices through a bridging element;

response data receiving means for receiving response data responsive to said initialization data from said access point; and

operational information transmitting means for transmitting information used to operate a home appliance or device connected to said home network after said response data receiving means receives said response data.” (emphasis added)

Although the combination of Borgstahl and Eisenhandler discusses a possibility of providing a portable device to communicate with a home network, Borgstahl and Eisenhandler,

in combination or individually, fail to teach or suggest providing a portable information device configured to communicate with a home network, which networks low-speed home appliances and high-speed devices through a bridging element.

Based on the foregoing discussion, it is maintained claim 1 should be allowable over the combination of Borgstahl and Eisenhandler. Furthermore, since independent claims 3, 7, 9, and 10 closely parallel, and include substantially similar limitations, as independent claim 1, claims 3, 7, 9, and 10 should also be allowable over the combination of Borgstahl and Eisenhandler. Since claims 2, 4-6, and 8 depend from claims 1, 3, and 7, respectively, and claims 2, 4-6, and 8 should also be allowable over the combination of Borgstahl and Eisenhandler.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-10 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 1-10 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

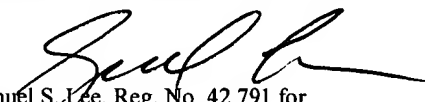
In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:



Samuel S. Lee, Reg. No. 42,791 for
William S. Frommer
Reg. No. 25,506
(212) 588-0800